March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
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Chapter.50

June

※ If the sticks are half-dried, a lot of smoke comes out!!

✿ Right now I'm obsessed with these mock-outdoors things.

I bought this little "nature stove", and I'm really enjoying it.

※ A little aluminium box that you put things like tissues, pinecones or dried branches in and light them on fire.

I put a grill and a pot on top and enjoyed some coffee with my parents in a corner of the barbecue area in the big park near my parents' house. ✿

✿ This is really in one of the 23 wards of Tokyo?! Mizumoto Park is always so refreshing and astonishing... It's such a lovely place.

✿ In the end, when it had turned into embers, we grilled some mochi. They turned out really well! ✿

Umino and her Happy Friends ~Family Edition~

SFX: DOON
THEY'RE FREAKIN' ENOR-MOUS!
MAN,
WHOSE SHOES ARE THESE?!
WOAA AAHH!
THEY'RE HUUUGE!
WHAT SIZE DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?!
HE'S IN THE PRE-LIMINARIES FOR THE KIRYUU CHAMPIONSHIP TODAY.
YEAH, I GUESS.
AREN'T THEY KUMA-KURA 9-DAN'S?!
LET'S FIND OUT!?
SFX: DOON
There's no way you could fit these on a shoe rack!
THESE ARE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE!!
HOW HE WAS ABLE TO KICK A HOLE IN THAT HOTEL WALL.
NOW I UNDER-STAND
THEY'RE SERIOUSLY ALMOST 30 CM!!
WOW, 29.5 CM!
SFX: GOGOGO GOGO GOGO

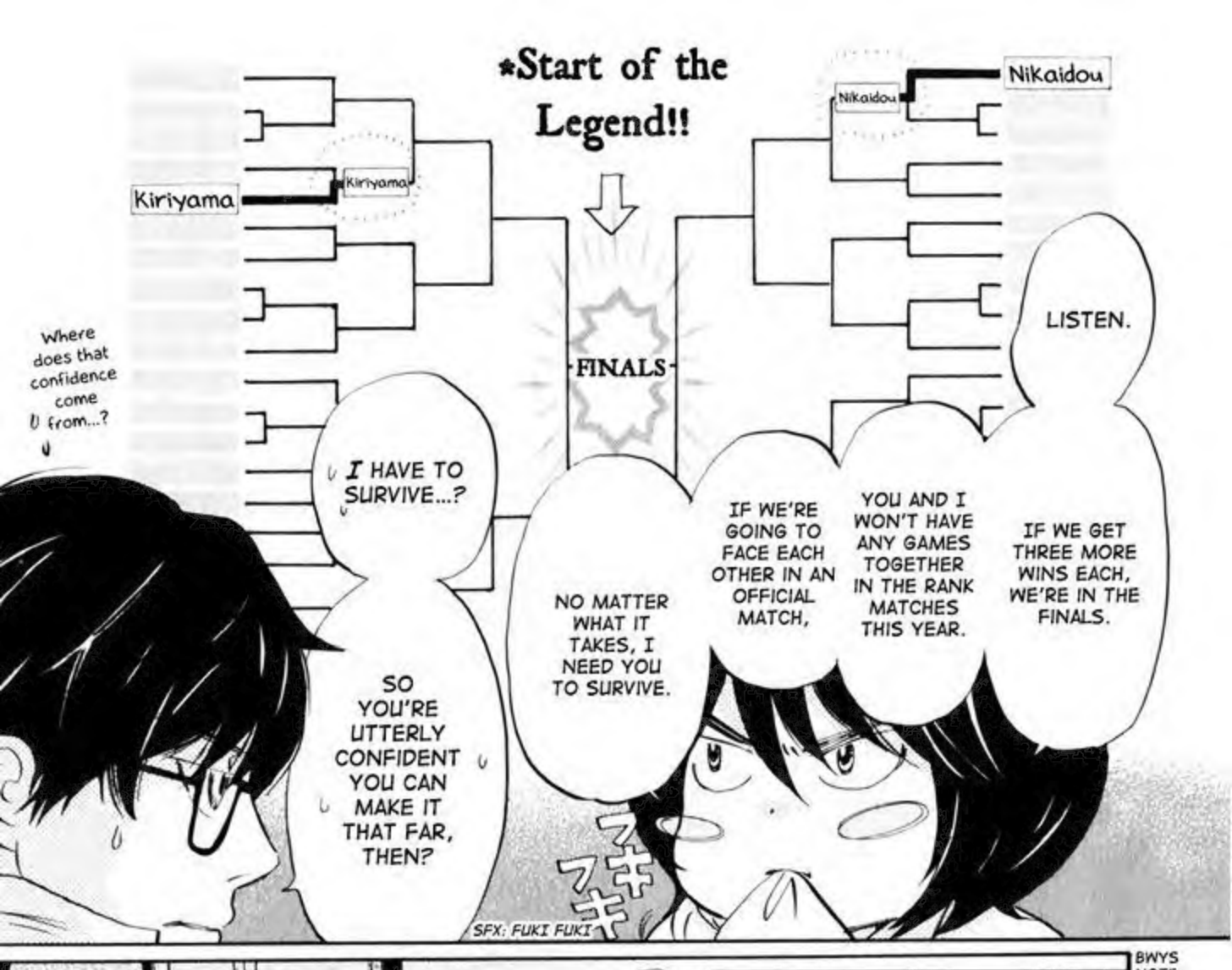
OOOOHHH! HE JUST GETS COOLER AND COOLER!
I WANNA KICK THROUGH SOME-THING, TOO!
Oh my god!!
Kengo's so cool!!
ACTUALLY KICKED IN ONE OF THE HOTEL'S WALLS AFTER LOSING A TITLE MATCH...
KUMAKURA-SAN, A MAN WHO'S ALWAYS COLD LIKE A ROCK...
BUT...
I'M REALLY SUR-PRISED...
I can't believe he was hiding such passion underneath that quiet demeanor...
What do you think, Smith?!!
So, you think I can make A-class now?
What do you think?!
Well, I can't say it looks balanced.
His feet are huuuge!
BUT,
I LIKE IT!!
I'LL GET STRONGER IF I PUT THESE ON, RIGHT?
I'LL GET CLOSER TO A-CLASS, RIGHT?
MAYBE YOU WILL!!
THAT'S THE IMPRESSION I GET FROM THESE THINGS.
LIKE, GET CLOSER!
SFX: GUHH

BWYS NOTE: K1 IS A KICKBOXING PLATFORM AND MARTIAL ARTS BRAND WELL-KNOWN WORLDWIDE MAINLY FOR ITS HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION FIGHTS.

AH, OH MAN.
IT'S BEEN 25 MINUTES ALREADY?
I HEARD HE GOT AN INVITATION FROM K1.
IS IT TRUE THAT HE'S A 5-DAN IN JUDO?
LOOK AT THAT TORSO.
THAT'S REALLY NOT THE BODY OF A SHOGI PLAYER!
MAN, HE'S TALL.
SO COOL.
DAMMIT, WE'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR ROKKAKU SOBA ON THE CORNER!
HURRY!
WE ONLY HAVE 50 MINUTES! WE'RE GONNA MISS OUR ONE AND ONLY LUNCH BREAK!
SFX: DADAAAAH

BWYS NOTE: WE COULDN'T FIND MUCH ON ROKKAKU (HEXAGON) SOBA. IT SEEMS TO BE A SMALL SOBA RESTAURANT CHAIN.

BWYS NOTE: A SHOUKADOU BENTO IS A KIND OF TRADITIONAL BLACK-LACQUERED BENTO BOX.


*Start of the Legend!!
Kiriyama
Kiriyama
Nikaidou
Nikaidou
FINALS
Where does that confidence come from...?
I HAVE TO SURVIVE...?
SO YOU'RE UTTERLY CONFIDENT YOU CAN MAKE IT THAT FAR, THEN?
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE.
IF WE'RE GOING TO FACE EACH OTHER IN AN OFFICIAL MATCH,
YOU AND I WON'T HAVE ANY GAMES TOGETHER IN THE RANK MATCHES THIS YEAR.
IF WE GET THREE MORE WINS EACH, WE'RE IN THE FINALS.
LISTEN.
SFX: FUKI FUKI

THEY'LL INTERSPERSE IT WITH MONOCHROME FREEZE FRAMES OF THAT BATTLE!!
I'LL ASTOUND EVERYONE AND BECOME A MEIJIN,
AND WHEN THEY DO A SPECIAL FEATURE PROGRAM ON TV LIKE PROJECT X,
THAT'S WHERE THE LEGEND OF YOU AND ME BEGINS, YA KNOW?!
LISTEN, YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE FINALS NO MATTER WHAT.
Theme song ☆(Overture)
♫ジャーロージャロージャロロー♫
♫ジャラリロー♫
MHK
トップランカー
プロジェクトF
名人二海堂の挑戦
～ライバルは心友～

[2010—During the newcomer championship—
Photo by Nakanogawa Banki]

BWYS NOTE: PROJECT X IS A DOCUMENTARY SHOW ON THE NHK NETWORK FOCUSING ON GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN JAPAN.

MUSIC: JAAROH JAROH JARORAROH JARARIROHH

TV: TOP RANKER

PROJECT F

MEIJIN NIKAIDOU'S CHALLENGES

THE RIVALRY OF DEAR FRIENDS

THE NEW-COMER CHAMPI-ONSHIP, HUH...?
THAT REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES...
GASP!
SFX: JIIIIN FURU FURU FURU (SHAKING)
Uh, don't you think you're going a little too in-depth with this whole map-for-the-future thing...?
"THOU-GHT"...
"NIKAI-DOU"...
"AT THAT POINT"...
I mean, you're already crying?
IT'LL HAVE NARRATION LIKE THAT WITH IT!!
じぃぃぃん
フルフル
NIKA

SFX: BIKUH (JOLT)
We're sorry for disturbing your meal!!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING AGAINST YOU TODAY!
YES, SIR!
A pie in the sky may be appetising, but a pie in your stomach would be out of this world!
C'mon now.
you should save all that idle chit-chat till after you've beaten this old man.
But lad,
Hahaha
にこやか～
SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY)
SFX: NIKOYAKA～ (SMILING)

Going on loudly about winning titles, becoming Meijin, and wanting to appear on MHK's Top Ranker...
Siiigh...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT WAS QUITE CLEARLY ALL YOUR FAULT.
Eeek!
THAT GENTLE OLD MAN, ARIMOTO 9-DAN!!
HE GOT MAD AT ME BECAUSE OF YOU, YA KNOW?!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT, KIRIYAMA?

KIRI-YAMA,
YOU MAY ALWAYS TAKE THAT
"I'M NOT GOING TO GET GREEDY" SORTA AIR AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE COOLLY LOOKING DOWN ON EVERY-THING LIKE A SPECTATOR,
BUT I KNOW WHAT THE REAL DEAL IS!!
HUH?
SFX: MOGU MOGU...
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING,
"WELL, IF ALL GOES WELL, I SHOULD BASICALLY BE ABLE TO WIN IT."
SFX: ZUIHH
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING NEWCOMER KING, RIGHT?
Um, what?
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT MAKING A BIG FUSS ABOUT THE NEW-COMER KING, YOU'RE STILL THINKING, "YEAH, OF COURSE I'LL GET IT"...
What?
W... Where did this come from?
—OR RATHER,
"REGARDING THE AGE RE-STRICTION, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTIME SOON,
BUT, WELL IF I HAD TO PICK SOME-THING TO WORRY ABOUT, IT'S THAT I'LL PROBABLY RANK UP IN CLASSES SOON AND END UP A 6-DAN,
SO I'LL HAVE TO WIN SOON OR I COULD LOSE MY CHANCE."
"WELL, IF IT COMES TO THAT, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OTHER TITLE MATCHES, SO I'LL JUST NEED TO WORK HARD ON THOSE INSTEAD."
SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES, RIGHT?
In your head!!
EXCUSE ME?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? THERE'S NO WAY I'D THINK LIKE THAT.
WHERE WOULD YOU GET SUCH CRAZY IDEAS...

MOMO, ANY OTHER IDEAS?
LIKE, SOMETHING THAT GOES "PLUNK" INTO THE WATER?
ANYTHING COME TO MIND?
... "Plunk" ...
Into the water...
A sandal?
DID YOU SAY... SANDAL?!
Aahn...
Waaaahn!
Momo's sandal fell!!!!...
Waaahn...
It fell. didn't it...?
I'll buy you another!
Aah! Don't cry!
There, there!
(*Visualisation)

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT OJII-CHAN,
RIGHT, HINA?
.....
.....
カキ…
カキ…
SFX: KAKI... KAKI... (DRAWING)
Could this child be a blessing from the god of wagashi?!
Ojii-chan... Will Mikazuki-dou... be all right...?
WE HAVE A PRODIGY ON OUR HAAAAANDS!!
My grandchild is the greateeeest!!
Hunuh...?
Her senses are beyond original!! They'll sell like mad!!

...WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU SEEM DOWN.
Hiiina!
The bath is freeee!
Sorry I took so looong!

NO,
I'M FINE, REALLY...
Okay... Hina should get in the bath, too.
.....
SFX: TON TON TON
BE CAREFUL WITH THE FIRE, OKAY?
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE, SO MAKE SURE YOU PUT IT OUT, OKAY?
OKAY, GOT IT.
NIGHT.
GOOD-NIGHT.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,
.....
SHE DIDN'T FINISH ALL OF HER DINNER TODAY...
I WONDER IF...
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HINA AT SCHOOL...
.....

Chapter 50 END